

GAS BELT MAJOR ENDS 'GAS' PARTIES TO PRESERVE LIFE

Christening "Gas Babies" in McKeesport Field Is a Perilous Ceremony.

SEVEN HOMES RUINED.

Six Drillers Seriously Injured and Scores of Spectators Slightly Hurt.

(Special to The Evening World.)

McKEESPORT, Pa., Dec. 30.—There will be no more "gas" baby parties in the gas fields in and near this city. The ban is on. Mayor George H. Lyle is looking after the safety of the people of his home town. When the word struck around Mayor Lyle took a stand against the holding of any public meetings, political, labor or otherwise, where crowds of people might gather. He did it as a "safety" precaution. He has taken similar action in the gas field, where great crowds of people, including men, women and children stockholders in the various wells, would gather on the day a well was to be struck "pay dirt." The festivities that went with the christening of a new "gas" baby are no more.

Action was taken to save lives, but not until a half dozen drillers had been seriously injured, several hundred people slightly injured, seven homes totally destroyed, and the derricks, engine rooms and outfit of three wells burned by the gas lighting from underground causes while the well was being brought in.

In less than a week, three wells caught fire a few minutes after the drill had penetrated the specimen sand at a depth of from 2,500 to 2,800 feet. It is believed that the fires are due to the friction caused by the drilling tools striking against the pipe casing that surrounds the six to eight inch holes. The gas will not ignite in the air, but the moment it reaches the surface and is mixed with air it will burn.

When the Lamp-Aud well, one producing over 15,000,000 cubic feet every twenty-four hours, was brought in less than a week ago an explosion occurred at the mouth of the well while a crowd of over fifty people, including the handsomely groomed wives and daughters of stockholders, were within the derrick structure gloriously celebrating the event.

The explosion was so violent that the derrick structure was blown down to the bottom of the well. The noise frightened the members of the christening party and they escaped from the derrick building. It was indeed fortunate to them that there had been a minute's warning, as in an instant there was an explosion and the derrick building was burned down and two frame houses with it.

On the same day the well of the Philadelphia Gas Company caught fire, as it was "paying" but as it was owned by a gas distributing company none were present except employees, and only one driller was slightly hurt.

But the accident that caused the Mayor to put on the ban and issue an order prohibiting visitors from being present at the christening of gas wells came on Christmas Eve. That day the Dutcher Well No. 1, which had been among the first to be christened, caught fire. The gas was so violent that it blew the derrick structure down and two frame houses with it. The explosion was so violent that the derrick structure was blown down to the bottom of the well. The noise frightened the members of the christening party and they escaped from the derrick building. It was indeed fortunate to them that there had been a minute's warning, as in an instant there was an explosion and the derrick building was burned down and two frame houses with it.

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Trousered Skirt New Fashion Among Women at Palm Beach



INTERNATIONAL PALM BEACH SUIT. This type of garment, closely allied to the riding breeches, is to be one of the prevailing popular fashions at Palm Beach this season.

The gown—so would it be called—trouser skirt—is plainly made, its only differing feature being rows of buttons on leg and arm. The trouser part of the costume is closely gathered below the knee.

The dress family were sad, but they will be compensated if the well holds out, as it will bring in revenue to the well at 15 to 17 cents per thousand cubic feet. The gas is being sold at 15 to 17 cents per thousand cubic feet. The gas is being sold at 15 to 17 cents per thousand cubic feet. The gas is being sold at 15 to 17 cents per thousand cubic feet.

EXCAVATING THEBES METROPOLITAN JOB

New York Art Museum Reviews Egyptian Research and Exploration. Herbert R. Winlock, assistant curator of Egyptian Archaeology at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is leaving today for Egypt to take charge of plans for extended research in the vicinity of Thebes. The museum plans to complete the excavation of the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes, which has been carried on for several years.

1,500 START TAKING CENSUS ON FRIDAY

"Nothing but the Truth" Is Warning of S. L. Rogers, Director.

SAM L. ROGERS, Director of the Census, is here today to arrange for the beginning of the fourteenth decennial enumeration of the country's population. The ready to tell the census man this Friday is the substance of his warning to New Yorkers. He also calls attention to the fact that while all questions must be answered, all information will be held by the Government in confidence.

MANY NAVY STORES OPENED.

Dr. Day Says There Are Now Fourteen Stations in City. Navy food and stores have now been placed on sale in fourteen stations in Greater New York, former Commissioner of Markets Dr. Jonathan C. Day announced this morning. He added that upon the arrival of Commissioner of Markets E. J. O'Malley, appointed by the Mayor as Dr. Day's successor, all of the food sold here, from the markets of the city and the surrounding area, will be sold through the Navy food stores.

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LIQUOR PERMITTED FOR USE IN COOKING AFTER JAN. 16

Hotels and Restaurants Must Get Permits, However, Commissioner Rules.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Preservation of the culinary art in America demands a little liquor in the kitchen, according to a ruling of the Prohibition Commissioner's office.

Hotels and restaurants will be permitted under the Prohibition Law to maintain small stocks of alcoholic beverages for use in cooking. Such dishes as rum omelette, brandy sauce, claret sauce and mince meat "with a kick" are not outlawed by national prohibition, it was said today by the Commissioner's legal department.

Permit for kitchen liquor must be obtained, however, and reports at stated intervals must be rendered by the licensee in the same manner as reports from other purchasers of wines and spirits.

Church organizations, chemists, physicians, innkeepers and other interests legally entitled to possess alcohol must have permits after Jan. 16. They will be allowed to buy alcoholic supplies from licensed dealers and will be called upon "from time to time" for reports on disposition of their stock.

Wholesale liquor dealers under the Prohibition Law will be under similar restriction. Applications for liquor licenses are now being received at the Prohibition Commissioner's office, many of them from old-time dealers.

Inventories of liquor stocks are required on Jan. 16, and permits for use of such stocks will be issued between the 16th and the 27th of the month. After the 27th all liquor not actually accounted for in the inventory, and persons not entitled to possess stocks will forfeit them.

The law does not deal with private stocks in homes or residences. It is a rule that a hotel or lodging house room may be a residence if it is permanently occupied, and that private stocks of liquor may be kept in clubs.

HEARING ON HOTEL THEFTS DELAYED

Illness of Mrs. George H. Morgan Causes Postponement of Suspect's Examination.

Because of the illness of Mrs. George H. Morgan, a cousin of the older J. P. Morgan, and complainant against Maurice J. Gray and Harry Shelly, the examination of the alleged hotel burglars was postponed today until Friday morning. The men are accused of stealing the worth of jewelry from Mrs. Morgan, who lives in the Hotel Belmont. They were continued on \$2,000 bail.

WOMAN CHOKED BY SAILOR DIES

Asailant, Who Says He Was Recovering Own Money, Held for Murder.

Policemen Martin and Cody early today heard screams in the rooming house at No. 75 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, and found a woman lying on the bed in one of the rooms from strangulation. She expired before an ambulance surgeon arrived. The police received information from Mrs. Morgan, who lives in the Hotel Belmont, that a sailor named Nolen, who arrived last week from Sweden, had taken the woman to the rooming house. He was held without bail for forty-eight hours.

\$7,000,000 VOTED FOR COURT HOUSE

Mayor Refuses to "Delay" County Building for Sake of Art.

The Board of Estimate today approved \$7,000,000 for the construction of a new County Court House on a part of the site north of the Municipal Building. The action of the Board carried with it approval of the plan as amended, chief among which was abandonment of the plan for a circular building and the substitution of a rectangular one.

Several representatives of the Municipal Art Society requested the Board to submit the plans to the Municipal Art Commission before definite action is taken. The Mayor said the Court House plans had been delayed six months already, and he did not propose to stand for any further delay.

To end the long range of anti-social opinion on the subject, the Municipal Art Commission will not pass on the new Court House plans.

BUSES TO RUN SIX MONTHS

Estimate Board Authorizes Continuance of Present System.

The Board of Estimate today authorized the operation of the bus lines under the supervision of Commissioner Wadsworth for another six months. Corporation Counsel Burr stated that he had not had time to draw up a new plan for the bus lines, but that he would do so as soon as possible. He said that the present system was the best one for the city, and that he would not recommend any change.

FIRE AT VANDERBILT.

Policemen Ordered of the East 25th Street Station saw a fire on the fifth floor of the Hotel Vanderbilt, at Park Avenue and 42nd Street, at 12:35. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen of the hotel. The fire was quickly extinguished, and no one was injured.

Children Who Believe in Santa Claus and Evening World Get Their Reward



THE CHILDREN WHO WROTE SANTA CLAUS CARE OF EVENING WORLD. Santa Claus may sometimes be a trifle late, but he gets there all the same. Thirty children discovered this fact last Saturday, after they had written him, care of The Evening World, and told him just what they wanted for Christmas. The letters were referred to the New York County Chamber.

SUIT CASE CLOTH STOLEN, HE SAYS

Salesman Accused of Theft Was to Marry His Employer's Sister, Declares Merchant.

Policemen George Green of the Market Street Station this morning arrested William J. Smith, 33 West 12th Street, for the theft of a suit case containing a \$400 worth of goods from a merchant.

Smith, who is married, and who is a salesman, was arrested on the charge of stealing the suit case from a merchant. He was held without bail for forty-eight hours.

MUST PAY 20 CENTS FOR CUBAN SUGAR

Due to High Prices Asked by Growers for Advance Crop, Says Mr. Williams.

The consumers will have to pay 20 cents for the advance crop of 5,000,000 pounds of Cuban sugar now being carried and distributed here, Food Administrator Williams said today.

"This is due to the fact that dealers here are required to pay a higher price to the Cuban producers for the crop, which is harvested in advance of the regular output," said Mr. Williams.

Unfortunately, we cannot control the price charged by the Cuban producers.

The regular Cuban sugar crop is expected to come into the United States next month. Mr. Williams said that he would try to regulate sugar prices at 14 or 15 cents.

It may be even lower than 14 cents," he said hopefully. "For, with the agreed of sugar, sufficient for all purposes, there will be considerable competition among the dealers, all of which may help bring down prices."

\$300,000 BACK PAY FOR RAILROAD NAVY

About 3,000 Harbor Workers Here Get Long Deferred Allowance for Overtime.

Lump sums, as high as \$700 a man, were received in the last week from the railroad by several thousand men who operate the boats of the Bureau Administration in New York harbor.

The money represents back pay for overtime work 1 year March 1st and Sept. 1, 1918 and the total is estimated at about \$300,000.

The 3,000 men who share it include dockmen, engineers, marine deckhands, carpenters and others who belong to the Marine Workers' Association, which is trying to get a similar award for its members on harbor boats operated by steamship lines under the Railroad Administration.

DENY BIG HOTEL THEFTS.

Rodriguez and Barra Each Held in \$75,000 Bail.

Baron Rodriguez and Antonio Barra, the alleged Hotel Kew-Forest burglars, produced and swore today to independent charging them with burglary in the first degree, highly robbery in the first degree and assault in the first degree and were held for trial by Judge Mulvihill in the Court of General Sessions in 27th Street.

Rodriguez was indicted as a second offender and Barra as a first offender. The men were released on \$75,000 bail each.

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DOCTOR'S ALIBI IN GIRL MURDER IS CONTRADICTED

Witness Testifies That Time of Absence Alleged by Accused Is Incorrect.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 30.—Dr. Christopher Schott, who is held in jail here in connection with the death of Miss Elizabeth Griffith, the day before Christmas, has admitted in a hearing before Police Judge Burgevin that he was deeply infatuated with Miss Griffith. He declared, however, that he favored a "trial marriage" with another man for the girl.

That the pistol found beside the body leaves no powder burns and cuts only a small hole, even at close range, was demonstrated in tests made by Coroner Carter and Capt. De Forester, Chief of Detectives. Police have worked on the theory that Miss Griffith could not have killed herself without her clothing and flesh showing powder burns and that therefore she was murdered.

Another development that Schott's attorney regarded as supporting the theory that the girl killed herself was the story told by Mrs. Paul Stone, who said she talked with Miss Griffith about 2 o'clock the day the girl's body was found, and that she had not seen her since.

The first direct contradiction of Schott's alibi, perfect, came today when William J. Ryan told the detectives he had seen Dr. Schott come out of his office and get in an automobile about 1:30 o'clock on the afternoon the body was found. He said he could not be more than ten minutes out of the way. Dr. Schott's story, which was supported by Laurence Gardner, his child friend, was that he did not return to his office from his trip delivering Christmas presents until 3 o'clock.

Dr. Schott was brought into Police Court, and although Judge Burgevin fixed his bond at \$15,000, he declined to give it, saying the examining trial would be held on Wednesday and that he would not ask his friends to put up \$15,000 to keep him out of jail for that short period.

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WOULD KEEP ALIENS OUT OF POLITICS

Chairman Cummings Suggests Law as Means to Curb Radicalism.

A law forbidding participation in political and movements affecting industrial life to aliens who "won't take the trouble to become American citizens" is one remedy Homer S. Cummings, Chairman of the House Committee on Immigration, would employ to curb radicalism in America.

Three hundred members and guests of the Upholstery Association of America, who listened to his address on "Americanism" at the organization's annual dinner last night at the Waldorf-Astoria, applauded his suggestion.

"How are we to avoid the spread of the anti-American spirit of Bolshevism?" Mr. Cummings asked. "How can we meet the propaganda of the Reds and of the I. W. W.? First let us make sure our Government is free and open and just. What no wrong goes unredressed, no righteous cause unheard. It would be simple to top an act on our part, or even more of honest radical activity in this country by passing a law forbidding participation in politics and in movements affecting industrial life to those who do not take the trouble to become citizens of the country whose hospitality they have sought."

INDICTED AS GIRL'S SLAYERS

Severo Pair Who Worked in Flat-bush Home on Trial Next Month.

Frank Kelly, a negro houseman, of No. 614 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, and Emma Robinson, a negro of No. 1309 Atlantic Avenue, were indicted yesterday by the Kings County Grand Jury for murder in the first degree for killing Catherine Dunn, a girl in the home of Catherine Sperry Clark at No. 1116 East 21st Street, Flatbush, Dec. 29.

Detective William Broome went to Albany and obtained extradition papers on which Kelly and the girl will return today to Brooklyn from Newark, N. J., where they are now in jail.

District Attorney Lewis announced that the pair would be placed on trial Jan. 8. They demand separate trials. Kelly will be tried first and the woman immediately afterward. The two were removed yesterday by the District Attorney by telephone. They were taken to the Kings County Jail, where they were held for trial. The girl's body was found in the home of Catherine Sperry Clark at No. 1116 East 21st Street, Flatbush, Dec. 29.

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WOMAN ACCUSED OF KILLING BROWN FOUND AND HELD

Beatrice Vester in Kalamazoo and Will Be Taken to Mount Clemens.

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich., Dec. 30.—Mrs. Cecil Beatrice Vester, accused of the murder of J. Stanley Brown, was found today in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Chief of Police Allen Straight received a telephone message from Kalamazoo saying that the woman was held in custody there. Mrs. Vester was at the home of her grandmother. She will be brought here later today.

Mrs. Vester, it was said, will be asked to try on a sliver slipper found in the automobile in which Brown was killed. Other clues found in an examination of the automobile were a blood-stained feather and a strand of blond hair in the rear seat. Brown's body was found in the front with his hands gripping the steering wheel.

Chief Straight contends the man was shot to death, his body pushed over the back of the front seat and slumped into the driver's pit and his hands placed about the steering wheel.

Sheriff Caldwell also was informed that Mrs. Vester had been located. Mrs. Vester, Sheriff Caldwell was informed, declared she could prove an alibi. Although she admitted being on "parties" with Brown and Lloyd Prevost, cousin of Brown's wife, she stated the last time she saw the murdered man was three weeks ago.

Mrs. Gladys Summit, who was arrested in Battle Creek and held as a witness told Mrs. Vester's actions and gave the authorities evidence which they thought sufficient to warrant charging Mrs. Vester with murder. The warrant was issued late yesterday.

Federal Prosecutor Wrote on Christmas Holiday.

Down came the heavy tax of Special Federal Prosecutor Henry A. Carter. When he returned to his duties in the Federal Building today after spending Christmas at Rushford, N. Y., he had a brand-new opinion on the matter. He announced his marriage to Miss Francis A. Merrill, daughter of W. W. Merrill, at Rushford on Dec. 26.

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MILLER CANDIES

"Better Chocolates at a Lower Price"

Special for To-day and To-morrow

Special Manhattan Mixture—One for today, one for tomorrow. Contains 100% pure chocolate, with the most delicious flavors of vanilla, strawberry, orange, lemon, and other fruits. Each box contains 100 pieces.

25c

Extra Special for To-day and To-morrow

Milk Chocolate Jellies—A delicious treat for all ages. Each box contains 100 pieces.

34c

Milk Chocolate Nuttered Brittle—A delicious treat for all ages. Each box contains 100 pieces.

44c

SIX CONVENIENT STORES

421 Broadway
525 Broadway
640 Broadway
1100 Broadway
1100 Broadway
1100 Broadway

Specified Weight Does Not Include Container. Mail Orders Promptly Filled